

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 158579
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:JMSEYMOUR:DJW

APPROVED BY EUR:GVEST

EUR/EE - MR. ANDREWS

ACDA - MR. HARKAVY (SUBSTANCE)

PM/SAS - MR. SMITH (DRAFT)

EUR - MR. ARMITAGE

L/PM - MR. MITCHEL (DRAFT)

H - MR. JENKINS (DRAFT)

INR - MR. SARRIS (SUBSTANCE)

C - MR. WOLFE

DOD/ISA-CAPTAIN STEELE(SUBS)

S/S-O:S.GOLDSMITH

-----095469 080154Z /61

O 080109Z JUL 77 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE NIACT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 158579

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, YO, ET, US

SUBJECT: ALLEGED YUGOSLAV TRANSFER OF M-47 TANKS TO
ETHIOPIA

REF: A) STATE 154598, B) BELGRADE 4532

1. YUGOSLAV RESPONSE AND EXPLANATION WILL BE HIGHLY
RELEVANT TO OUR DECISION WHETHER TO RECOMMEND TO PRESIDENT
OR CONGRESS A FINDING THAT THE VIOLATION IS "SUBSTANTIAL"

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 158579

UNDER THE PERTINENT LEGISLATION. YOU WILL NOTE FROM DIS-
CUSSION OF PREVIOUS CASES (REF A) THAT THE EVIDENCE OF
INADVERTENCE, REGRET, AND ASSURANCES IT WOULD NOT BE
REPEATED WERE IMPORTANT FACTOR IN THIS REGARD. THE
LARGE NUMBER OF TANKS INVOLVED IN THIS CASE IS, OF COURSE,
AN IMPORTANT FACTOR. WE WILL OBVIOUSLY HAVE TO EXAMINE
MINIC'S REPLY FULLY IN DETERMINING WHAT ACTION WE MUST

TAKE, BUT YOUR RESPONSE SHOULD CLEARLY CONVEY SERIOUSNESS OF YUGOSLAV ACTION.

2. WITH THIS IN MIND, YOU SHOULD RESPOND AS FOLLOWS:

--- (A) IF MINIC ADMITS DIVERSION, STATE THAT:

--- GOY OBLIGATION TO REPORT SUCH TRANSFERS WAS MADE FULLY CLEAR DURING THE EXPERIENCE WITH YUGOSLAVIA'S PROPOSED TRANSFER OF F-86 AIRCRAFT TO HONDURAS IN 1975.

--- AS AN ACT IN DIRECT CONTRAVENTION OF U.S.-YUGOSLAV AGREEMENTS GOVERNING THE TRANSFER OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT IT MUST, UNDER U.S. LAW, BE REPORTED. THUS, THE MATTER CANNOT REMAIN ONLY A PRIVATE CONCERN BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS.

--- NOR CAN YUGOSLAV ACTION BE CONSIDERED IN ISOLATION FROM OUR OVERALL RELATIONSHIP. IT RAISES QUESTION CONCERNING EXPRESSED GOY DESIRE TO EXPAND MILITARY-TO-MILITARY COOPERATION. IT MUST ALSO RAISE, IN OUR MINDS, SERIOUS QUESTIONS ABOUT CONFIDENCE WE CAN PLACE IN YUGOSLAV COMMITMENTS UNDERTAKEN IN BILATERAL AGREEMENTS OR ARRANGEMENTS.

--- (B) IF HE DENIES DIVERSION, STATE THAT OUR IN-SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 158579

FORMATION IS SOLIDLY BASED, WE ARE POSITIVE THE TANKS ARE U.S.-MADE M-47'S AND ARE CONVINCED BEYOND REASONABLE DOUBT THAT THEY CAME FROM YUGOSLAVIA.

--- (C) IN EITHER CASE YOU SHOULD STRESS THE SERIOUSNESS OF THIS MATTER AND THE PROFOUND CONCERN OF THE USG, INDICATING YOU CANNOT SAY WHAT THE CONSEQUENCES WILL BE FOR OUR RELATIONS BUT YOU WILL REPORT GOY RESPONSE BACK TO WASHINGTON.

3. WE ARE LOOKING INTO THE QUESTION OF WHAT IF ANY INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION CAN BE RELEASED AND WILL PROVIDE GUIDANCE SEPARATELY.

4. DECISION ON CLASSIFICATION OF THESE CASES HAS BEEN HANDLED ON AN AD HOC BASIS. POSSIBILITIES OF PUBLIC ACCESS ARE HIGH (PARA 4, REF B). OF THE PREVIOUS THREE CASES REPORTED TO CONGRESS, THE IRANIAN AND LIBYAN ONES WERE REPORTED IN UNCLASSIFIED FORM (REF A). CONGRESS NORMALLY INSISTS ON SUCH REPORTS BEING UNCLASSIFIED, ALTHOUGH IN THE ISRAELI CASE OTHER CONSIDERATIONS PREVAILED. VANCE

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, POLICIES, INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION, TANKS (COMBAT VEHICLES)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 08-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE158579
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JMSEYMOUR:DJW
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770242-0399
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770777/aaaacorl.tel
Line Count: 116
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5aa98a6e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 77 STATE 154598, 77 BELGRADE 4532
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1919642
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ALLEGED YUGOSLAV TRANSFER OF M-47 TANKS TO ETHIOPIA
TAGS: MASS, YO, ET, US
To: BELGRADE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5aa98a6e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009